Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I mean the Inspector gave a report to the Magistrate. Then, the Magistrate made a sort of enquiry, and sent a report to me. Not the contrary.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That makes matters worse.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is the fact. I have not made any independent enquiry apart from the enquiry made by the Magistrate.

President.—Has this matter of influencing witnesses by Ramaswami Naidu ever come to your notice? If so, what action have you taken?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It was brought to my notice, as I said; I am not sure whether it was influencing or whether it was any other thing. I can't say what the nature of the charge is before referring to the records. Something very bad. Concerning Naidu, the matter was brought to my notice by the Trichur Magistrate, at the instance of the Trichur Inspector, and the result of the enquiry made by the Magistrate was communicated to me. From the last letter sent to me by the Magistrate, no further action was necessary.

President.—You did not find it necessary to conduct any investigation, and so you have not done it.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Am I to understand that, in spite of the fact that Ramaswami Naidu was under suspension a few days before for serious misconduct, when another charge was levelled against him, the department thought that no enquiry was necessary?

President.—That is argument. If you want information, the Superintendent will furnish it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Magistrate found, on enquiry, that the charge was not well-founded.

221. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether this K. R. Ramaswami Ayyar was not the previous camp clerk of the Excise Commissioner and this Ramaswami Naidu, a person then under suspension for serious misconduct?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Ramaswami Ayyar was the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent till 27th Vrischigam 1101.

With regard to Ramaswami Naidu, vide answer to question 220.

222. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds, if any, for withholding the increment of the Trichur Salt Inspector?

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